



## ORDINANCE NO. 28919

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to property tax levies; amending Chapter 3.11 of the  
2 Municipal Code, relating to Emergency Medical Transportation, by  
3 amending Section 3.11.060, entitled "Patient transportation service  
4 rates" to restore the Emergency Medical Services levy and allow the levy  
5 to pay for medical transport charges incurred by qualified city residents,  
6 as passed by voters in Proposition 1 in the August 1, 2023, Primary  
7 Election.

8 WHEREAS, the City Council placed Proposition 1 on the August 1, 2023,  
9 primary election ballot, asking voters to restore the Emergency Medical Services  
10 (EMS) Levy to \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed property value (AV) and allow the levy to  
11 pay for charges incurred by qualified City residents for all Tacoma Fire  
12 Department transports not paid by third parties or insurers, including Basic Life  
13 Support (BLS), and

14 WHEREAS, during the August 1, 2023, primary election, Proposition 1 was  
15 passed by the voters, which restored the EMS levy to \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed  
16 property value, and

17 WHEREAS, to implement the results of the vote it is necessary to amend  
18 Chapter 3.11 of the Municipal Code, relating to Emergency Medical  
19 Transportation, by amending Section 3.11.060, entitled "Patient transportation  
20 service rates" to restore the EMS levy and allow the levy to pay for medical  
21 transport charges incurred by qualified City residents, as approved by voters;

22 Now, Therefore,

23 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

24 Section 1. That Section 3.11.060 of the Municipal Code, entitled "Patient  
25 transportation service rates" is hereby amended to restore the Emergency  
26



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

Medical Services levy and allow the levy to pay for medical transport charges incurred by qualified City residents, as passed by voters in Proposition 1 in the August 1, 2023, Primary Election, to read as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."

Section 2. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Attorney



EXHIBIT "A"

CHAPTER 3.11  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

\* \* \*

**3.11.060 Patient transportation service rates.**

The following procedures are established for patient transport service to users of the City Fire Department Advanced Life Support ("ALS") patient transport service and Basic Life Support ("BLS") patient transport service:

A. Charges to be made.

1. Transport. All persons who are transported by a City Fire Department ambulance shall be charged for all services at the rates as set by ordinance of the City Council, as amended from time to time, provided that the Tacoma Fire Department may adjust the charges yearly for any cost-of-living adjustment ("COLA") increases as measured by the Consumer Price Index, Pacific Cities and U.S. City Average for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton areas. Rates for services and supplies shall be set to provide for recovery of actual costs based upon an average charge, which will be reviewed biennially. Each person transported will be billed for all services provided. EMS members and nonmembers will be billed at the same rate.

2. Treatment and non-transport. All persons who receive ~~Advanced Life Support ("ALS")~~ medical treatment by the Tacoma Fire Department and, who after treatment, decline transportation to a local hospital ~~shall be~~ may be charged a non-transport fee. EMS members and nonmembers will be billed at the same rate. The base rate shall be subject to biennial COLA increases in the same manner as the transport rates set forth in Subsection 1 above.

B. EMS membership benefits.

By reason of special property tax levies for certain emergency medical services which are levied against property within the corporate limits of the City or are levied against property within the corporate limits of a jurisdiction for which the City has assumed contractual EMS responsibility, each resident of the City and of those contractual jurisdictions signing (by recipient or authorized representative) an EMS Membership form containing an affirmation of City residency and an assignment of benefits to the City, together with an appropriate release of medical information, shall become an EMS member and be ~~entitled to~~ eligible for membership benefits as herein provided. An EMS member receiving BLS or ALS treatment and/or transport by the City Fire Department ~~ALS transport or ALS treatment and non-transport by a City Fire Department ambulance~~ shall be deemed to have paid (by reason of the special levy) that portion of the charges incurred which is not payable by third parties and insurers, including, but not limited to, any insurance or medical benefits of any nature available to such member. ~~EMS membership benefits do not include BLS transport services.~~ This EMS membership benefit of coverage of charges in excess of available insurance or medical benefits shall cease when or if:

1. A member ceases to be a resident;
2. A member refuses to provide requested information pertaining to third party coverage or to provide appropriate releases of information and assignment of benefits to the City on forms provided by the City; or
3. Such EMS membership benefit is limited or extinguished by amendment or repeal of this Chapter.

C. Nonmembers.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

Persons receiving BLS or ALS treatment and/or transport by the~~ALS transport or ALS treatment and non transport by~~ City Fire Department ~~ambulances~~ who are not ~~entitled to~~ eligible for an EMS membership shall be required to pay all charges incurred. Where practical, the City, in accordance with procedures to be approved by the Fire Chief, will, with the authorization of a nonmember receiving transport services, first seek payment of charges incurred from such nonmember's insurance or other medical benefit provider, but such nonmember shall remain fully responsible for any amount due which is not paid by such third parties.

D. Medicare and Medicaid.

Eligible recipients of Medicare and Medicaid benefits shall be charged as the result of BLS or ALS treatment and/or transport by the ~~ALS transport or ALS treatment and non transport by~~ City Fire Department ~~ambulances~~ at only the maximum rate allowed under the Medicare and Medicaid federal programs, and the City shall accept as payment under the Medicare and Medicaid programs only such maximum amount as the City may collect pursuant to the applicable requirements and guidelines of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

E. Compliance with Medicare and Medicaid requirements.

This chapter and charges for ambulance services hereunder shall be construed and implemented in a manner consistent with applicable requirements of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

\* \* \*